GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:985
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
ROUTE RATIONALISATION
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have notified the route rationalisation for the two national carriers i.e. Air India and Indian airlines recently;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof;

(c) the details of routes from which Air India has withdrawn its flights during the last three years on uneconomical grounds, year-wise;

(d) the details of routes from where Indian Airlines has withdrawn its flights during the last three years on the same analogy;

(e) the details of routes on which Indian Airlines wanted to stop its flight but the Government rejected its plea;

(f) the reasons for rejecting the request of Indian Airlines; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to make both the national carriers more competitive against the foreign airlines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a) & (b): With a view to effecting greater synergy in the operations of Air India and Indian Airlines, avoiding needless competition between the two airlines to the detriment of both, utilising the resources of the two airlines optimally and serving the needs of passenger in a coordinated and cooperative manner, Government issued directive on 3rd January, 2003 to Air India and Indian Airlines allocating them routes in South-East Asia and Gulf.However, operation of this directive has been kept in abeyance pending a fresh review.

(c): In the year 1999, Air India withdrew its flights to Frankfurt, Rome and Manchester. However, operations to Frankfurt has been restarted in December, 2002.

(d) : In the year 2001, Indian Airlines withdrew flights between Kolkata-Singapore, Bangalore-Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai-Karachi, Trivandrum-Colombo and Hyderabad-Doha.

(e) & (f): There is no international routes on which Government has stopped Indian Airlines to withdraw their flights.

(g) : Both Air India and Indian Airlines constantly endeavour to increase their profitability through measures like acquisition/leasing of new aircraft, redeployment of services to more profitable routes/withdrawal from uneconomic routes, introduction of special fares to increase passenger load factors, reduction in cost through downsizing at foreign stations etc.